

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-14 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-11 L-03

ACDA-19 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 USIA-15

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 SS-20 NSC-07 IO-14 SAM-01 NIC-01 H-03

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INFO SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

EC BRUSSELS 5385

US MISSION NATO

CINCUSNAVEUR

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TAGS: PFOR, ARR, SOPN, IT, US, CY, NATO

SUBJ: ITALY AND NATO IN THE LIGHT OF CYPRUS DEVELOPMENTS

1. LAST SEVERAL DAYS HAVE PRODUCED A FLURRY OF STATEMENTS ON SUBJECT OF HOW SHOULD ITALY RESPOND WITHIN NATO TO THE LATES MEDITERRANEAN CRISIS. A SAMPLING FROM SEVERAL OF THE MORE THOUGHT-PROVOKING ARTICLES IS PROVIDED BELOW.

2. SUNDAY AUGUST 18, PAOLO VITTORELLI, A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL DIRECTORATE OF THE ITALIAN SOCIALIST PARTY AND EDITOR OF THAT PARTY'S GENOA NEWSPAPER, STATED THAT ITALY IS NOW LIKE A SINGLE AIRCRAFT CARRIER ISOLATED FROM NATO IN THE MIDDLE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN. HE ASKS WHETHER ITALY CAN AFFORD TO CONTINUE AS THIS ISOLATED BASE WITHOUT RECEIVING MORE DIVERSE AND EFFECTIVE SECURITY GUARANTEES THAN EXISTED IN THE PAST. HE
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SUGGESTS THAT NOW WOULD BE A GOOD TIME TO PRESS FOR BETTER

GUARANTEES, GIVEN THE FACT THAT RISKS ARE GREATER TO ALL AFTER GREECE'S WITHDRAWAL FROM NATO. HE ENDS BY SAYING THAT ITALY IS ABOUT TO BECOME THE MOST THREATENED TARGET OF ALL NATO MEMBERS ON THE MEDITERRANEAN AND CLAIMS THAT ANYONE NOT WILLING TO RECOGNIZE THESE CHANGES CAN SCARCELY CLAIM TO BE WISE OR CAUTIOUS.

3. MONDAY, AUGUST 19 IN THE CENTRAL ITALIAN PAPER, /IL RESTO DEL CARLINO/, THE FORMER NATO SECRETARY GENERAL MANLIO BROGIO, AFTER A VERY FAIR AND RATIONAL EXPLANATION OF THE DILEMMAS PRESENTLY FACING GREECE AND THE USA IN THE CYPRUS SITUATION, RESPONDED DIRECTLY TO THE POINTS MADE BY VITTORELLI WITHOUT NAMING HIM. HE CONCLUDED THAT NOW WOULD BE THE WORST POSSIBLE TIME FOR ITALY TO EVEN SUGGEST SUCH A DISLOYAL ACT AS THAT OF REOPENING NEGOTIATIONS ON THE USE OF US-NATO BASES OR FOR TAKING ANY STEPS THAT WOULD DISMANTLY NATO'S MILITARY ORGANIZATION THEREBY LEAVING IT SOLELY A POLITICAL ALLIANCE. HE THEN EXPLAINED THE GUARANTEES OPERATING THAT PROHIBIT NATO-RELATED FACILITIES FROM BEING USED FOR ACTS OF WAR WITHOUT HOST COUNTRY AND/OR FULL NATO CONCURRENCE. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS THE PREPOSITIONED AND FUNCTIONING NATO AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM AND UNIFIED COMMANDS THAT SERVED TO PROTECT A SMALL COUNTRY LIKE ITALY. HE PROPOSED THAT SHOULD THEY NOT EXIST AND NATO DESIRE TO RECONSTRUCT THEM "DI NUOVO" IN TIME OF WAR OR CRISIS, A NATION SUCH AS ITALY COULD EASILY BE DEFEATED WELL BEFORE THE FACILITIES MIGHT BE OPERATIONAL. HE WARNED THAT SUCH PRESSURES WOULD PLAY INTO THE HANDS OF AMERICAN ISOLATIONISTS AND THE LOSERS COULD ONLY BE EUROPE. HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT DURING THE PRESENT SITUATION, ITALY'S MAIN INTEREST IS TO NOT COMPLICATE THINGS FURTHER WITH PRECIPITIOUS INITIATIVES, BUT RATHER TO REMAIN UNITED WITH THE OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND TO SUSTAIN WITH THEM THE EFFORTS TOWARDS PEACE OF THE UNITED STATES. AND ABOVE ALL, HE URGES, WE SHOULD ALL PRAY THAT CARAMANLIS ACTS WITH THE SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHICH HE IS SO WELL KNOWN AND THAT THEREBY GREECE CAN FIND SOME HONORABLE WAY OUT OF THE PRESENT PAINFUL SITUATION.

4. GAETANO SCARDOCCHIA IN THE AUGUST 19 /CORRIERE DELLA SERA/ NOTED THAT "ANTI-AMERICANISM IS NOW CARAMANLIS ONLY WEAPON TO SOOTHE THE NATIONAL SENSE OF FRUSTRATION AND TO BRING STRONG UNCLASSIFIED

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PRESSURE TO BEAR ON THEIR POWERFUL ALLY". SCARDOCCHIA FORECAST THAT "IF /THE AMERICANS/ ARE CHASED OUT OF GREECE THEY MAY GO NEXT ON TO SOUTHERN ITALY....GREEK DIPLOMACY MAY EVEN TRY TO EXPLORE CAREFULLY ITALIAN THOUGHTS IN THE HOPES THAT ROME MAY DISCOURAGE THE AMERICANS AND THEREFORE INCREASE THE WEIGHT OF GREEK PRESSURE ON WASHINGTON."

5. AN ARTICLE BY STEFANO SILVESTRI IN /CORRIERE DELLA SERA/ OF

AUGUST 17 RAISES THE SPECTOR OF A RAPIDLY DISINTEGRATING POLITICAL EQUILIBRIUM IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AS EUROPE BRACES FOR AND UNDERGOES THE INEVITABLE INSTABILITY OF THE POST-TITO, POST-FRANCO PERIODS. IN SILVESTRI'S VIEW THIS POLITICAL INSTABILITY IS COMING AT A TIME WHEN WESTERN MILITARY STRENGTH IN THE MEDITERRANEAN HAS BEEN REDUCED TO THE SIXTH FLEET AND A FEW SCATTERED U.S. COMMANDS. HE FEELS IT IS UP TO THE COMMON MARKET COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY FRANCE, ITALY AND GREAT BRITAIN, TO STEP INTO THE GAP AND SERVE AS NOT ONLY THE LINK BETWEEN GREECE AND THE WEST, BUT ALSO AS THE NECESSARY ELEMENT FOR PRESERVING MEDITERRANEAN POLITICAL STABILITY. HE CONCLUDES THAT THE SECURITY OF EUROPE DEPENDS UNTIMATELY ON THE SECURITY AND STABILITY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN AND THAT TO INSURE THIS STABILITY, THE U.S. WILL ALWAYS NEED EUROPE'S ASSISTANCE. VOLPE

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